

REMARKS

The claims of the present application have previously been amended under PCT Article 34 (see, e.g., copy of FORM PCT/IPEA/416 submitted herewith). On consideration of the claims of the present application, Applicants submit the above Preliminary Amendment to remove the multiple dependencies of the claims as previously amended under PCT Article 34.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-22 are pending in the application, with claim 1 being the independent claim. Support for the subject matter of the amended claims is contained in the application as originally filed. Because the foregoing changes introduce no new matter, their entry is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extension of time or additional claims, and/or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. 466600-00015; Docket No. 187287/US/DJB/VEJ).

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 187287/US/DJB/VEJ
Attorney Matter No. 466600-00015
Application No. *To Be Assigned*

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Response is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 6, 2006

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